

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 13-16 are now pending in the application, with Claim 13 being the only independent claim. Claims 13-16 have been amended. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Claims 13, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,114,020 (Misuda et al.). Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Misuda et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,175,133 (Smith et al.). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention as recited in independent Claim 13, as amended, is directed to a process for producing a recording medium for ink-jet recording having an ink-receiving layer including a particulate material on a base material. The process includes the steps of grinding aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure and removing a coarse particle component by a separation treatment such that the average particle diameter of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure is at least 0.21 μm and at most 1.0 μm , and at least 90% of all particles of the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure have a particle diameter of at most 1.0 μm , and applying onto the base material the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure subjected to the treatment of removing the coarse particle component with a binder. At least 90% by weight of the particulate material is the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure.

Aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure can be used in an ink-receiving layer to deal with the problem that an ink-receiving layer containing alumina hydrate having a pseudoboehmite structure is liable to crack. Moreover, conventionally sold aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure have been subjected to a sintering step in their production process. As a result, only particles with a large particle diameter are provided due to the particles aggregating during the sintering step. As indicated in Comparative Example 1 in Applicants' specification, a recording medium utilizing conventional aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure as a main component provides only images of low gloss. In contrast, the present invention can solve such problems by grinding the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure and removing a coarse particle component to obtain particles having a specific particle diameter.

Misuda et al. is directed to a recording medium having a base material and a porous surface layer containing particles of a thermoplastic resin. Misuda et al. discloses that the porous surface layer may be an alumina hydrate having a pseudoboehmite structure. Misuda et al., however, is not read to teach or suggest, at least, using aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Smith et al. was cited for its teaching of a dewatering step such as centrifugation or filtration, and is not read to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Misuda et al. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 13. Dependent Claims 14 to 16 are also

allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. For example, Claim 15 recites that the aluminum oxide particles of the γ -crystal structure is an alumina obtained by heating and calcining boehmite or pseudoboehmite. Individual consideration of the dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Williamson", is written over a horizontal line.

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